GCSS on LAN

I recently attended a pre-solicitation meeting for the acquisition of a new combat support system. The system was to be integrated into the Global Combat Support System (GCSS). The phrase that caught my eye on the slide was "GCSS – Any Box, Anywhere." As the briefer described GCSS as the panacea for all combat support communication, a cynic next to me explained that there was no way that it would be fielded. For every salient point the briefer provided, the cynic had a counter snipe.

I sensed that I had heard this conversation before. The pitch followed by resistance. A counter pitch, met with increased defiance. I was transformed back to my childhood and Dr. Seuss:

I am Uncle Sam
Uncle Sam
Uncle Sam I am

That Uncle Sam-I-am!
That Uncle Sam-I-am!
I do not like that Uncle Sam-I-am!

Do you like GCSS on LAN?

I do not like it, Uncle Sam-I-am.
I do not like GCSS on LAN[1].

Would you like this data share?

I would not like that data share.
I would not like it anywhere.
I do not like GCSS on a LAN.
I do not like it, Uncle Sam-I-am.

Would you like it for the Joint Staff?
Would you like it for a laugh?

I do not like it for the Joint Staff.
I do not like it for a laugh.
I do not like that data share.
I do not like it anywhere.
I do not like GCSS on LAN.
I do not like it, Uncle Sam-I-am.

Would you install it on any box?
Would you use it at Fort Knox?

Not on any box.
Not at Fort Knox.
Not for the Joint Staff.
Not for a laugh.
I would not use that data share.
I would not use it anywhere.
I would not use GCSS on LAN.
I do not like it, Uncle Sam-I-am.

Use it! Use it with NT!
Here it is, it is free.

I would not, could not, with NT.
I would not, could not because it's free.
You let me be.
I do not like it on any box.

I do not like it at Fort Knox.
I do not like it for the Joint Staff.
I do not like it for a laugh.
I do not like that data share.
I do not like it anywhere.
I do not like GCSS on LAN.
I do not like it, Uncle Sam-I-am.

Then train, train - train, train, train!
Could you, would you, if you train?

Not if I train! Not if it's free!
Not with NT! Uncle Sam! Let me be!
I would not, could not, on any box.
I could not, would not, at Fort Knox.
I will not use it for a laugh.
I will not use it for the Joint Staff.
I will not use that data share.
I will not use it anywhere.
I do not like GCSS on LAN.
I do not like it, Uncle Sam-I-am.

Say! On the Web?
Here on the Web!
Would you, could you, on the Web?

I would not, could not, on the Web.

Would you, could you, if in vain?

I would not, could not, if in vain.
Not on the Web. Not if I train.
Not with NT. Not if it's free.
I do not like it, Uncle Sam, you see.
Not for the staff. Not on any box.
Not for a laugh. Not at Fort Knox.
I will not use that data share.
I do not like it anywhere!

You do not like GCSS on LAN?

I do not like it, Uncle Sam-I-am.

Could you, would you, for the CINC[2]?

I would not, could not, for the CINC!

Would you, could you, with a data link?

I could not, would not, with a data link.
I will not, will not, for the CINC.
I will not use it if in vain.
I will not use it if I train.
Not on the Web. Not if it's free!
Not with NT! You let me be!
I do not like it on any box.
I do not like it at Fort Knox.
I will not use it for the Joint Staff.
I will not use it for a laugh.
I do not like that data share.
I do not like it ANYWHERE!
I do not like GCSS on LAN!
I do not like it, Uncle Sam-I-am.

You do not like it. So you say.
Try it! Try it! And you may.
Try it and you may, I say.

Uncle Sam! If you will let me be,
I will try it. You will see.

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Say! I like GCSS on LAN!
I do! I like it, Uncle Sam-I-am!
And I would use it for the CINC.
I would use this data link.

I won't use it if in vain.
So on the Web I will train.
And with NT, because it's free,
It is so good, so good, you see!

I will install it on any box.
And I will use it at Fort Knox.
And I will use it for the Joint Staff.
And I will use it and not laugh.
And I will use this data share.
Say! I will use it ANYWHERE!

I do so like GCSS on LAN!
Thank you!
Thank you, Uncle Sam-I-am!

This is not exclusive to GCSS, nor does it diminish the hard work of those who have designed and implemented GCSS. It is indicative of all massive, common, global, implementations unique to the Defense Department and the government as a whole. You can replace GCSS in this story with Defense Information Infrastructure (DII) Common Operating Environment (COE), Global Command and Control System (GCCS), Defense Message System (DMS), Defense Information Support Network (DISN), or Ada and the story holds true. The ending may not be as copasetic as Dr. Suess, but the struggle is bona fide.

If DISA would only field a Global Reach Electric Energy Network (GREEN) for Eccentric Global Gambling Sites (EGGS) and Heuristic Award Manipulation (HAM), the parody would come full circle.

[1] *Local Access Network*   [2] *Combined Intelligence Center*

— Gary Petersen, Shim Enterprise, Inc.